

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02689 241218Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 COME-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /017 W

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R 241111Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2689

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: BTIO, PINT

SUBJ: PM'S SON WANTS TO BUY PRINTING EQUIPMENT

FOR NEA/INS JAMES LEADER

1. ANURA BANDARANAIKE, PRIME MINISTER'S SON AND CHAIRMAN, SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) YOUTH LEAGUE, HAS WRITTEN AMBASSADOR AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER AS FOLLOWS: "WE ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASE OF EITHER NEW OR RECONDITIONED PRINTING EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR PRODUCTION OF THREE COLOUR PUBLICATIONS SIZE 22 3/4 INCHES BY 15 1/2 INCHES IN NEWSPRINT". "---WE WOULD PREFER NEW EQUIPMENT IF WE CAN OBTAIN SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT FROM LIST PRICE." BANDARANAIKE REQUESTS DIRECT QUOTES FROM SEVERAL SUPPLIES "WHICH SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE FAVORABLE TERMS OF LONG TERM PAYMENT."

2. ALTHOUGH WE ARE SURE AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS CAN SUPPLY EQUIPMENT TO MEET REQUIREMENTS, DISCOUNT AND CREDIT REQUEST MAY BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR RELATIVELY SMALL ORDER. IN ANY EVENT PLEASE CABLE DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICES CIF COLOMBO FOR APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT FROM AT LEAST THREE MANUFACTURERS, ALONG WITH ESTIMATED SHIPPING TIME AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY FOR DISCOUNT/CREDIT FACILITIES. AIR POUCH CATALOGUES.

3. WE PRESUME THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE FOR NEWSPAPER WE UNDERSTAND BANDARANAIKE IS PLANNING TO PROMOTE HIS CAUSE. GIVEN HIS INCREASING POLITICAL PROMINENCE, WE WOULD APPRE-
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CIATE THIS REQUEST BEING GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION.

HIS QUERY IS LABELED "PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL" AND
SHOULD BE SO TREATED.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB02689
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740268-0561
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740920/aaaaaqnk.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM'S SON WANTS TO BUY PRINTING EQUIPMENT FOR NEA/INS JAMES LEADER
TAGS: BTIO, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005